

Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force

March 01, 2021 from 3:00pm-4:30pm

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department

Zoom Meeting – Virtual Only

AGENDA

Description	Action Steps/Items
Welcome / Review Minutes / Review Agenda	Jon Tunheim welcomed everyone to the meeting. Schelli Slaughter was unable to attend due to COVID-19 response needs. The November minutes and the January agenda were approved without updates. Introductions were done by the group.
<i>State v. Blake</i> Update (Added agenda item)	<p>Jon Tunheim gave a brief update about the changes and work that is being done since <i>State v. Blake</i>, the Supreme Court ruling which deemed unconstitutional Washington's strict liability drug possession statute, which criminalized unintentional, unknowing possession of controlled substances without a prescription (RCW 69.50.4013). In short – the striking down of this RCW means that an individual can no longer be arrested or charged for possessing a personal amount of any substance and that anyone incarcerated exclusively on simple possession charges must immediately be released. The Supreme Court decision also allows for possession charges which have occurred at any point in Washington to be vacated, as well as for offender scores to be re-assessed for individuals who are currently incarcerated on other charges but who have received possession charges in the past.</p> <p>Jon Tunheim mentioned that the immediate impact on Thurston County was going to be looking at pending charges and processing their dismissal. There were very few individuals who had to be released from Thurston County Jail as a result of <i>State v. Blake</i>, as Thurston County has been on limited booking in order to keep Jail population numbers down during COVID-19. The plan of action for Drug Court participants is still being worked on to find a way to continue to support individuals in the program who will no longer be eligible due to vacating their possession charge(s). Jon Tunheim mentioned that the effects of <i>State v. Blake</i> will take years administratively, due to all of the aspects of the system which possession charges impact and the extremely high volume of cases which must now be looked at.</p> <p>Larry Jefferson noted that this is the single greatest change he has seen in his 25-year career as a public defender. He noted how possession laws are historically rooted in furthering systemic racism, and that this change allows us as a community to move forward in removing significant barriers to success. It also will allow us to be creative in how we address substance use and explore innovative opportunities, as we have not been in the position before to respond to possession without arrest.</p>

	<p>Both Katie Strozyk and Cindy Grande mentioned that there have been multiple bills introduced in the Legislature which address personal possession in some way – with more bills expected to be introduced soon. These bills range from formalizing decriminalization and defining personal possession amounts to reinstating the criminalization of personal possession for those who knowingly possess a controlled substance.</p> <p>Patrick O’Conner mentioned that anyone who has a prior personal possession charge should contact the Public Defense Office in order to get started with the process of vacating their charges at (360) 754-4897.</p>
Strategy Discussion Group Feedback	<p>Katie Strozyk shared information around the timeline for updating the Thurston County Opioid Response Plan for 2021-2022 (see slides for additional information). Feedback for the revision has been occurring through Strategy Discussion Groups, which focus on four topics within the Response Plan: treatment, overdose, pregnant/parenting, and criminal legal. To date, the treatment Strategy Discussion Groups have been completed, and the overdose discussions are halfway completed. Pregnant/parenting and criminal legal will be scheduled for April.</p> <p>The feedback from the treatment Strategy Discussion Group was shared. There were 26 organizations represented between the two 90-minute discussion sessions, which was a robust turnout. From the two discussions, six main themes/priority areas were identified by those who attended –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilization of Peers• Treatment logistics & eligibility requirements• Measure of “success” – not only abstinence• Need for case management• Combating stigma• Continual learning opportunities/continuing education <p>Housing, while being an overwhelmingly emphasized topic, was not listed within the six main themes due to there already being a concentrated effort to address housing/homelessness. As there is a crisis declaration around homelessness in Thurston County and a 5-Year Plan for addressing homelessness, the revised Opioid Response Plan will reference and crosswalk these efforts rather than adding housing specific goals.</p> <p>Katie Strozyk explained that racial equity was also a topic of significance at the Strategy Discussion Groups, while also being a prior identified area of interest of the Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force. Mary Ann O’Garro discussed the related efforts around racial equity that were upcoming at the County level – specifically the interest of the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners having an interest in declaring racism a crisis in Thurston County. It was identified at a treatment Strategy Discussion group that there should be a racial equity specific workgroup for the Task Force, which naturally aligns with the work that is underway at the County level. It is not yet determined how this workgroup would be structured, but it would provide an avenue for advisement and setting measurable goals related to the strategies in the Response Plan. The group mentioned that any type of racial equity workgroup would</p>

	<p>need to take special considerations around safety and structure, both which would be addressed as the group begins. More information will be sent to the group regarding this new workgroup once it is available.</p>
Work Group Updates	<p>Katie Strozyk updated that the Naloxone Work Group did not have their monthly meeting due to the overdose Strategy Discussion Groups. Community trainings on overdose response and naloxone administration have still been happening, with most of the trainings being moved to the Zoom platform and held virtually. New informational materials and resources around methamphetamine and stimulant related overdoses have been released by University of Washington's Addictions, Drug, and Alcohol Institute (ADAI) and are available here.</p> <p>Jason Bean-Mortinson shared that the Treatment Work Group also took a break from meeting to focus on the Strategy Discussion Groups.</p> <p>Mary Ann O'Garro shared that the Data Work Group has not been meeting, but has been listening to the Strategy Discussion Groups to identify potential data requests and areas of interest which arise.</p> <p>Kateri Wimsett shared that the Prevention Work Group is working on a prevention webpage, which will act as a landing spot for folks who are interested in learning more about prevention around opioids. They are also working on developing a campaign around safe medication storage practices and the promotion of medication disposal.</p> <p>Jon Tunheim and Patrick O'Connor shared that the Criminal Justice Work Group is going to have to circle back and adjust some of their projects and priorities due to the major impacts of <i>State v. Blake</i>, and that this work will be the focus of the next couple of months.</p> <p>Gretchen Thaller gave an update on the Pregnant & Parenting Work Group, sharing that they have been finalizing their work on a resource handout which details supportive services for individuals who think they might be pregnant. This handout will be accompanied with distribution of pregnancy tests, in order to increase access outside of clinical settings.</p>
Membership Updates / Funding & Partnership Opportunities	<p>The following updates were shared during the roundtable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrie Hennen updated that there is an open Request for Proposals for Treatment Sales Tax funding for behavioral health related projects, with applications due April 02, 2021 • There is a Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Provider meeting on April 27, 2021 – contact Hallie Cranos with the Washington Recovery Helpline for more information • Kateri Wimsett will be hosting an overdose education and naloxone administration training via Zoom on March 23, 2021 at 6pm, which is open to everyone • Larry Jefferson shared that Thurston County Public Defense is finishing the hiring process for their new Social Services Specialist

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marry Ann O’Garro shared that funding was obtained to pilot a chronic pain specific course within the chronic disease self-management course offerings for the community
Schedule & Next Steps	<p>Next Task Force meeting: May 03, 2021 from 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm. VIRTUAL ONLY – NO IN PERSON ATTENDANCE https://washington.zoom.us/j/99510082872 Call-in: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 995 1008 2872</p> <p>If you are interested in additional information regarding the Thurston County Opioid Response Task Force, would like to join a work group, or have further questions – please contact Katie Strozyk at katie.strozyk@co.thurston.wa.us or (360) 878-1261</p>

Name	Agency
Aramorie, Miae	Emergent BioSolutions
Bean-Mortinson, Jason	Thurston-Mason BHASO/OHRC
Benavente, Danilynn	Providence Chemical Dependency Center
Berner, Marisa	Mason General Hospital
Cohan, Cody	Family Support Center
Cooper, Thomasina	Board of County Commissioners Office
Cranos, Hallie	WA Recovery Help Line
Dahlhoff, Leatta	Tumwater City Council
Dees, Kristy	HeartStrides Therapeutic Horsemanship
Fernes, Praveena	Community Member/Volunteer @ OBC
Grande, Cindy, MD	Pioneer Practice / Olympia Bupe Clinic
Griffin, Tiffany	Public Health & Social Services
Gunderson, April	Public Health & Social Services
Hemmerle, Sean	WA State Department of Health
Hennen, Carrie	Public Health & Social Services
Jefferson, Larry	Public Defense
Knudsen, Jessie	Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Leonard, Garrett	Olympia Bupe Clinic
Lynch, Zach	Cascade Pacific Action Alliance/CHOICE
Madrone, Dani	Olympia City Council
Marineau, Keylee	Public Health & Social Services
Miller-Todd, Ben	Medic One
O'Connor, Patrick	Public Defense
O'Garro, Mary Ann	Public Health & Social Services
Peters, Christy	Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Pierce, Krystal	Olympia Bupe Clinic
Rongen, Kecia	Community Member
Scott, ShaMarica	YWCA

Shera, Kris	WA State Health Care Authority
Snaza, John	Thurston County Sheriff's Office
Strozyk, Katie	Public Health & Social Services
Terry, Priscilla	Community Member
Thaller, Gretchen	Public Health & Social Services
Tunheim, Jon	Prosecuting Attorney's Office
White, Krissy	Olympia Bupe Clinic
Willis, Shelly	Family Education and Support Services
Wimsett, Kateri	Public Health & Social Services